



July 15, 2011

Dr. David Rasmussen
Dean, College of Social Sciences
0160 Bellamy Building
MS: 2160

Dear David,

Attached please find the comments by the Faculty Senate Ad Hoc Committee Review Report on the Koch Foundation Memorandum of Understanding.

This report confirms my assessment that Florida State maintained a high level of academic integrity in the process of searching for two new faculty members in the Economics Department three years ago when the Koch Foundation MOU was signed.

The report also indicates, as I have said in my public comments, that the agreement did provide the opportunity for outside influence. Regardless of the fact that FSU acted in a manner consistent with academic principles, we should be diligent in avoiding even the appearance of undue outside influence. I have tasked Vice President Jennings to review Foundation policies and to take actions to ensure that all gift agreements adhere to our academic principles.

I would note that the Committee recommends that no additional hiring occur using the MOU unless it is modified.

In the process of gathering information about the implementation of the MOU, the Committee reflects on several areas related to faculty governance, departmental by-laws, and the faculty involvement in the development of the curriculum. These issues are not related to the language in the MOU. However, they suggest weaknesses in faculty and departmental governance that should be addressed.

Please review the recommendations, and then set a time that we can meet with the new Provost so that we can review your proposed actions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric J. Barron". The signature is stylized, with the first name "Eric" written in a cursive-like script and the last name "Barron" in a more formal, blocky style.

Eric J. Barron
President

CC

Provost
Dean of Faculties
President, Faculty Senate
Members, Ad Hoc Committee